

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 TRSE-00 SY-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR LIAISON OFFICE PERSONNEL

REF: A) PEKING 1566, B) STATE 213212

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT PRC HAS AGREED TO ISSUE MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS VALID FOR TWELVE MONTHS TO USLO PERSONNEL FROM NOW ON. WE PRESUME THAT THE SAME PORTS OF ENTRY THAT NOW APPLY WILL APPLY IN FUTURE.

2. REGARDING VISAS FOR PRCLO PERSONNEL, AS USLO IS AWARE, WE ARE UNABLE TO GRANT "A" VISAS SINCE THEY ARE AVAILABLE
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AS A MATTER OF LAW ONLY TO CERTAIN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN

ACCREDITED "BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED DE JURE BY THE UNITED STATES." THE "B-1 DIPLOMATIC" VISA AS APPLIED TO PRCLO PERSONNEL WAS DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY TO ASSURE THAT PRCLO OFFICIALS AND STAFF ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AT THE PORT OF ENTRY IDENTICAL TO THOSE ACCORDED BEARERS OF "A" VISAS. AS NOTED REF B, SOME PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED AND STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN COOPERATION WITH INS AND CUSTOMS TO ASSURE THEY WILL NOT BE REPEATED. OTHER THAN THOSE FEW PROBLEMS SPECIFICALLY BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE SYSTEM HAS OPERATED SMOOTHLY.

3. YOU SHOULD TELL LIN THAT, AS WE TOLD THE PRCLO WHEN IT NOTIFIED US OF THE KNOWN PROBLEM CASES: WE REGRET THAT THEY HAPPENED; THE SLIP-UPS WERE SIMPLY THAT AND DID NOT SIGNIFY ANY DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE CHINESE ON THE CONCEPT OF RECIPROCITY; AND THE "B-1 DIPLOMATIC" VISAS ISSUED TO PRCLO PERSONNEL CALL FOR THE SAME TREATMENT AT PORTS OF ENTRY AND EXIT AS ANY OTHER DIPLOMATS RECEIVE. FYI UNDER PROCEDURES WORKED OUT SINCE THE PRCLO APPROACH NOTED REFTEL, INS UPON ADMISSION OF PRCLO PERSONNEL ENDORSES THEIR FORM I-94 TO REFLECT "B-1 DIPLOMATIC" FOR "DURATION OF STATUS" AND ESCORTS THEM TO THE CUSTOMS INSPECTION AREA AND THE APPROPRIATE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL IS ADVISED OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS. END FYI.

4. THE PRCLO HAS RAISED WITH THE DEPARTMENT AT VARIOUS TIMES THE QUESTION OF ANTI-SKYJACKING INSPECTIONS. AS YOU ARE AWARE, SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR PRC EXCHANGE GROUPS WITH SY ESCORTS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. FOR ALL OTHERS, HOWEVER, THE ROUTINE PROCEDURES APPLY AND IN MOST CASES PASSENGERS ARE REQUIRED TO OPEN THEIR CARRY-ON BAGGAGE REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC OR OFFICIAL STATUS. (DIPLOMATIC POUCHES, OF COURSE, WILL NOT BE OPENED.) THIS IS NOT A CUSTOMS INSPECTION BUT A SAFETY PRECAUTION WHICH APPLIES NOT ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES BUT IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. YOU SHOULD POINT THIS OUT TO LIN IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHEN PRCLO PERSONNEL BOARD PLANES FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPARTURE.
PORTER

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